# Sacramento County Human Services Coordinating Council

## Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2020

Meeting Location:

Dept. of Human Assistance

2700 Fulton Ave

Sacramento, CA. 95821

Conference Room 58

Facilitator: Ernie Brown, Chair

**Staffed by:** Cindy Marks

Meeting Attendees:

* HSCC Members –Ernie Brown, Melinda Avey, Raymond Kemp, Robert Silva, Jr., Kula Koenig, Paul Tanner, Randy Hicks, Teresa Ogan, Steve Orkand
* Ex-Officio Members – Bruce Wagstaff (CEO), Britt Ferguson, Ann Edwards, Michelle Callejas (DCFAS), Julie Gallelo (First 5), Ann Edwards (DHA)

Absent Members:

* HSCC Members – Steve Orkand, Caroline Lucas, Paula Green
* Ex-Officio Members: Cindy Cavanaugh (Homeless Initiatives), Michelle Gorre for Peter Beilenson (OFCA), Aaron Chong (BOS), Eduardo Ameneyro (DHA)

**Public**: Patty Gainer

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| Call to Order | Chair, Ernie Brown, welcomed everyone, introductions were made, and meeting called to informal order. | |
| Approval of January 9, 2020 Minutes | Approval of February 13, 2020 Minutes with corrections by Raymond Kemp and Melinda Avey seconded. | |
| Presentation-Sacramento County Budget | Bruce Wagstaff and Britt Ferguson presented to the HSCC   * Britt Ferguson-Overview of 2020 Budget for Sacramento County with concern to the impact on the economy and today’s process. * Difficult fiscal issues, such as a 42 million dollar deficit in the general fund, and not specified to one department. * Sales tax is growing from 4%-6%, however this is in relation to the expenditure and COLA for the union * Loss of 20 million across departments, one of which was the MAZE concerning conditions of the confinement in the jails. In 1920, we had to spend 20 million to make changes. Moving forward from 2020 and over the next five years, we will have to spend 50-60 million and 150-200 million in capital costs in order to bring the jails to the state that it needs to be. Going into 2021 will still be a difficult fiscal year. There is no way to know about the hotel and sales tax moving forward. We receive 600 million per year from property and sales tax realignment. These things will all be affected by the sales tax. * We are concerned about hotel and sales taxes in respect to the ever changing Coronavirus epidemic. The Hardesty Decision, which was a lawsuit that will pay out over 105 million plus lawyer fees to the plaintiffs due to a mining claim issue; On the department revenue side, there is the end of the Title IV-E Reduction in revenue of in 2021 of 13 million in this area. Depending on what happens and rules and replacement programs, we could be looking at upwards of 29 million dollar deficit in this area. There will likely have to be some program and service cuts in 2021. This impacts all General Fund departments. * In the next few weeks please give some thought to where your priorities are and what needs you may have because at some point we will have to make decisions about here we are losing funding.      * Bruce Wagstaff-We are giving the opportunity to evaluate the fiscal stresses as to what is needed moving forward as there are some significant unknowns. How do we prioritize different services to customers? Can we have an overall recommendation to staff and let staff (Cindy) know what you and your department may need?   Questions from HSCC:   * Bob: The state has a large surplus-can we dip in this reserve? Bruce: To clarify, we are unsure as we are watching at this time and may know more around May 10th. Ann: They may dip into reserves for fallout from the virus, but more than likely not to assist Sacramento County. Brit: Every year we compare ourselves to all the largest counties in the state and thus one of the counties in greatest need. If the State and Feds deem our county to be in need, we may get help with the programs, but am not sure at this time. The largest amount of the State income is from Income Tax and Capital Gains tax, which has already been hit hard from the falling stock market. The state may not dip into that as we already had a deficit of 42 million last year. Bruce: We have to see what will be reimbursed form the State and the Feds. It’s important to declare these types of emergency so we can have access to emergency fund money in times of crisis. There will be a hearing at the board in June and we will know more at that time. * Steve: The Consent Decree has to do with issues that have been brewing this year and now we are forced into a position of catch up which has forced us into more of a deficit of more than anticipated. Can something be done in regards to helping out the Safety Net programs? Britt: We have had a consultant helping in all the areas they need to raise revenue and increases in parcel and sales taxes. If there are bigger concerns, then this can require a majority 2/3 vote and this can be difficult to obtain. They can take a look of this moving forward. * Melinda: Are you anticipating cuts to AOD treatment? Depends. The waiver as signed, but the lack of budget can affect it * Raymond: There is a 1 cent sales tax in outlying areas. Is there any way to have the areas who have coffers grant this to the county? Britt: This is probably worth pursuing a conversation with the cities to see what they possibly can spare at this time or are willing. Bruce: Homeless funding is already receiving funding from other sources, so can other cities share surplus revenue maybe that was segmented for this population as we move forward? The County will have to look at that moving forward. * Randy-The realignment funding comes from the county. Mental Health and other realigned programs that can money be gained from this? Also, CA merging department of AOD and MH to assist with funding as there are obligations to provide this for this county. Bruce: We have very effective statewide organizations, County Welfare Association and others get intensely involved in the budget process and the flow of funding. I agree, we should track this as to how we are owed the services for the funding we get. Brit: The whole theory of realignment is that money would be given through sales tax revenue, but not necessarily what the County will need and it was up to us to cut or serve programs as needed based on what we received. In bad economic times, the money is less and the need is greater. * Randy: Prop 63- Bruce: We have tried to use the MSA dollars into the community via RFPs, etc. There has been talk in the community how this is paid. Michelle added that there is self-plantation, so we cannot use that at this time.   Ann Edwards and Michelle Callejas presented to the HSCC:  Ann-Categorical reduction in some funding and the way CalWORKs is received in a single allocation. You were able to use the funds where they are most needed and move Childcare and Eligibility funding back and forth. Now, this cost is being separated. We previously had routinely used this benefit. This is going to have an impact now in the CalWORKs DHA program. The caseloads have been decreasing which is due to a good economy, however, the State has never given us a cost of doing business increase. At the same time the State is not giving their costs are increasing. The one place we do get a cost increase is Medi-Cal Eligibility as we work on the budget for the coming year. DHA had to cut 94 positions and keep an additional number vacant.  Steve: Who separates the budget? Ann: The State Department of Social Services. The state wanted to do this during this year, but the impact would have been felt more greatly as we move forward.  Raymond: Do you anticipate that CalWORKs cases will increase? Ann stated that yes, this may happen. They are anticipating more applications by way of, for example, GIG workers and food service workers.  Randy: CalFresh-Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)-Typically these people are ineligible for CF unless they work and participate in job readiness activities. The ABAWD waiver is expiring April 1, 2020 and the County is looking to extend this exemption. What about CW? There have been grant increases over the past 18 months. Will there be an increase to CW grant? Possibly.  Julie: For 2021, this will be the third year of the full funding for Strategic Planning. All programs have developed a sustainability plans for the next 12 months, so they are anticipating a 30 percent cut when we begin our next plan when we begin in 2021. All programs will be cut except for Black Child Legacy Campaign based on outcomes that we are having in this program.  Michelle: Title IV-E Waiver-With the Federal Waiver, they had a loss of 5 million and then going into 2020 it was 16 million. There will be mixing and matching to avoid any more realigning and elimination of positions. Last year, 55 positions were lost, but no word on how the virus and other concerns that arise may affect these changes and realignment.  All executives thanked the HSCC members for their support, time, and upcoming feedback. |
| Budget Ideas Moving Forward | All members will send Cindy ideas of how they feel it would be best to allocate the budget moving forward for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. | |
| Member Comments | Randy: The Disability Advisory Commission met yesterday and talked about the ADA Self Evaluation Implementation Plan and this will cost 37 million. First, the county will work on transit improvements and then programmable improvements. The DAC are trying to negotiate with the labor unions about staffing implementation and how to ensure the plan is implemented moving forward. They are going to identify the ADA Team, and then have Public Access Coordinators identify each department, then presentation to departments, and then they will provide this to the Disability Compliance Office and make sure of the information I and notices are ADA compliant. All information will be sent via e-mail as soon as possible.  Raymond: In regards to the budget, there are items in great need of attention as they are in danger of being cut. We as the HSCC need to be of service to the Board of Supervisors and look at things like public health, alcohol and drug programs, child welfare. We need to have a concise plan of action and not so broad in our thinking so that the plan flows by the time the information gets to the Chiefs.  Julie: It would be great to state that there are “across the board” cuts, however it does come down to funding and who needs what as far as, for example, how successful their program is and if the funding can continue to be used in the new Fiscal Year.  Michelle: This has forced us to be more collaborative and creative with what our needs are and will continue to be moving forward.  Melinda: We at the HSCC is trying to bring up the perspective from multi-faceted community representation and are a critical piece to the Board of Supervisors and their decisions and make recommendations of priorities.  Bob: Even though we have funding for the Homeless, do we have to allot for more funding that may go towards that population? This may be a question to ask the BOS.  Michelle: We have to invest in Mental Health and AOD prevention. What we know is that when a child enters the foster care system, the likelihood of them entering into substance abuse disorders, dropping out of school, criminal justice system involvement, and a fifty percent high school drop-out rate if these services are not available to them is a huge concern.  Ernie: Can we have a sub-committee meeting? “Ad Hoc Budget Meeting” and have some members meet to discuss what ideas we can bring as a whole to the Board of Supervisors. Cindy has set up a separate meeting for Tuesday, March 17, 2020. | |
| Public Comments | No comments. | |
| Announcements | No announcements. | |
| Adjournment | Meeting adjourned | |